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LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY

FALL 2004

VOLUME 59 ISSUE 3

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT



# *A Year In Review*



**LeTourneau**  
UNIVERSITY



# *In Memoriam*

## *Dr. Richard H. LeTourneau*

### *1925–2004*

Dr. Richard H. LeTourneau, 79, was an author, industrialist, educator and president emeritus of LeTourneau University, as well as having served as president and CEO of his family's earthmoving machinery company, R.G. LeTourneau, Inc. He gained a wealth of experience in industrial management, business and education throughout his lifetime and published books on leadership, success, ethics and business management.

Born Jan. 3, 1925, in Stockton, Calif., Richard LeTourneau was the eldest surviving son of renowned inventor and Christian businessman R.G. LeTourneau and his wife, Evelyn, founders of LeTourneau University. The school was founded as LeTourneau Technical Institute in 1946 to retrain returning World War II veterans.

Richard LeTourneau earned a bachelor's degree in 1958 and a master's degree in 1961, both in industrial engineering from Texas A&M University. In 1970, he completed a long-held ambition to complete a doctorate in industrial engineering from Oklahoma State University.

From 1958 to 1962, Richard LeTourneau established and led a highly successful degree program in industrial engineering and served as an administrative vice president of LeTourneau Technical Institute. The school was renamed LeTourneau College in 1961 and admitted its first female students.

From 1962 to 1968, he served the first of two terms which totaled 16 years as president of the college as it expanded into a liberal arts college, strengthening the basic thrusts and goals of the college in its Christian witness and practical application of learning. Enrollment

during that time grew from 425 to 732, and construction included a men's residence hall, a science building and library.

In 1966, at age 41, Richard LeTourneau succeeded his 78-year-old father as president and chief executive officer of R.G. LeTourneau, Inc. guiding the sale of the \$70 million heavy equipment and offshore jack-up rig manufacturer to Marathon Manufacturing Company. Richard served as senior vice president of Marathon LeTourneau for two years after the merger. The company, known as LeTourneau, Inc., today is still a world leader in the manufacture of jack-up offshore oil drilling platforms.

Richard LeTourneau served in a dual capacity for two years as the president of both the college and company from 1966 to 1968 when a new college president was inaugurated.

Dr. LeTourneau's second term as president of LeTourneau College was from 1975 to 1985, at a time when growth included the construction of Trinity Hall and an aircraft hangar-classroom facility at the Gregg County Airport for the school's growing aeronautical science program. Student enrollments

numbered over 1,000 and curriculum improvements included earning accreditation through the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

Since retiring in 1985, he had served as a computer literacy consultant to small colleges around the country, taught business courses and written several books. He was a member of numerous boards in business, politics, civic and Christian organizations. He and his wife, Louise, had four children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



**Dr. Richard H. LeTourneau**  
1925 – 2004



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LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY FALL 2004



*"BEHOLD, NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE TIME;  
BEHOLD NOW IS THE DAY OF OUR SALVATION." II Cor. 6:2*

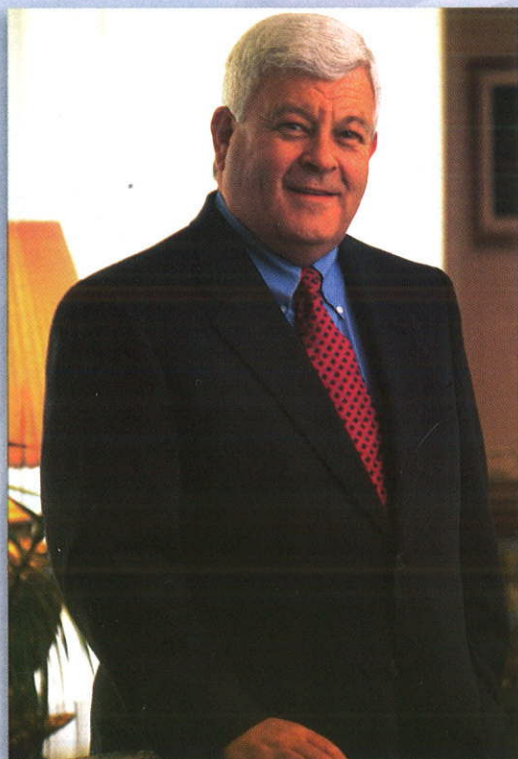
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**LeTourneau University** is an interdenominational Christian university located in Longview, Texas, offering academic majors in the aeronautical sciences, education, engineering, the humanities and sciences. LeTourneau University also offers business degrees and teacher certification programs at five educational centers in Austin, Bedford, Dallas, Houston and Tyler.



# A Message From The President



Dr. Alvin O. Austin  
President

*"Our goal is that all students have personal relationships with Christ, to be educationally and professionally prepared for their lives after college, and also to be motivated to use their knowledge and experience to make a difference in the world."*

The President's Annual Report is my chance to share with you a summary of the many happenings in the life of the university over the past year. How can it be that the 2003-04 year is already over?

Looking back on this past year, I can enthusiastically say we had a banner year at LeTourneau University.

We had record student enrollment at every level. We had a record number of incoming freshmen students (over 340) in the fall, a record number of undergraduates, a record number of post-degree and graduate students. We had a record enrollment at our main campus and a combined record enrollment at our five educational centers in Dallas, Bedford, Houston, Austin and Tyler. We even had a record number of graduates in our spring commencement services in Longview (over 400) and Houston (268). What a great confidence

builder it is to have an ever-increasing number of top-quality students wanting to engage in LeTourneau's quality, Christ-centered educational programs.

A private university must maintain financial stability to assure its students, alumni, friends and donors that it is secure in its ability to move forward with its programs. We met and exceeded budgeted revenue levels and our expenses were maintained within budget guidelines, allowing us to end the year with our 18th consecutive year of balanced budgets.

We opened and dedicated a new Facilities Services Building, providing a new home for all of our campus maintenance and support personnel. Previously, they worked out of a terribly inadequate structure left over from the days when our campus was an army hospital built in 1942. We broke ground on a new residence hall to accommodate our growing student population.

As a dynamic organization, we always have to say farewell to a few of our people who leave or retire. But we rejoice in the new faculty and

staff that have joined us to take the place of those departed. We have never had a stronger, better prepared and more committed to our mission group of people than what we now have. This last year, we made some administrative adjustments to help make our athletics departments more competitive and have brought on board some new faces to energize our men's and women's sports programs.

We launched a new Web site design that better communicates the spirit of faith and ingenuity of our institution. With increasing frequency, students use this site to apply to the university.

We have had phenomenal initial success in our largest ever fund-raising campaign for the S. E. Belcher, Jr. Chapel and Performance Center. To date, we have raised nearly \$9.4 million toward our \$15 million goal. We now begin to launch the more public phase of the fund-raising campaign, to reach into our local community and to solicit support from our alumni. Please continue to join us in prayer as we seek those individuals, corporations and foundations who might partner with us in the completion of this most significant building on our campus—the S. E. Belcher, Jr. Chapel and Performance Center.

Most important in the life of LeTourneau University is commitment to remain spiritually strong. Our goal is that all students have personal relationships with Christ, to be educationally and professionally prepared for their lives after college, and also to be motivated to use their knowledge and experience to make a difference in the world. Never has there been more commitment to our spiritual vitality. Never before have we had the level of involvement of students, faculty and staff in bringing integration to the issues of faith, learning, living and leadership. We must never be satisfied with our level of achievement in the area of faith development...but it has been a great year in this area on our campus.

In the following pages, take a look at what this past year held for LeTourneau University. See what has happened in the lives of our students. See how our partnerships with donors, foundations, alumni, faculty and staff, have made this one of our best years ever.





# Year in Review

LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY 2003-2004

## AUGUST

### STUDENT MOVE-IN DAY

New students learn from their very first day on campus that education is a partnership between themselves and faculty. Nowhere is that more apparent than on move-in day, when many faculty members fight the sweltering August heat to help students move into their residence halls. The fall 2003 semester saw students coming to LeTourneau in record numbers from all across the United States.

LeTourneau University is routinely listed in the top tier of nationwide rankings of "America's Best Colleges" by *U.S. News and World Report*. Last year, LETU was ranked 28th among Master's Comprehensive Universities in the Western Region, along with other Texas schools like Trinity University, Abilene Christian University and St. Mary's University. LETU ranked in the top tier for eight years among liberal arts schools before being reclassified in 2001 as a master's comprehensive university due to the growth of our degree programs.

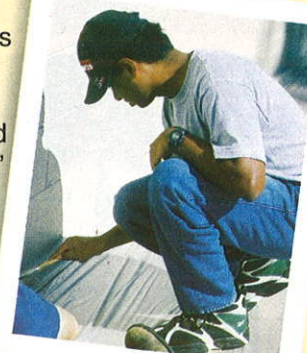
In the past 10 years, total enrollment universitywide has more than doubled to a total of nearly 3,600 students, making LeTourneau University one of the fastest growing universities in the state of Texas. With the highest number of traditional-age students at the Longview campus, as well as greater numbers of working adult students enrolled in classes in Longview, Tyler, Dallas, Bedford, Austin and Houston educational centers, the 2003-04 year was one for the record books.



### FIRST WEEKEND & LONGVIEW BLITZ

The annual First Weekend and Longview Blitz events teach students that giving back to the community is an important part of their college education. During their first weekend on campus in their new "hometown," freshmen students learn first hand what it means to become part of the community during First Weekend.

More than 400 students, faculty and staff volunteer time and energy each year during Longview Blitz, performing cleanup projects for local charities and ministries. They rake leaves, clear land, paint buildings, empty storage buildings, cook meals, feed the homeless, tutor children, plant flowers and do some light construction work. Students learn how to organize the work projects and develop leadership in the process. LETU students gave more than 20,000 hours of their time and hard work, and established relationships to help those in need. These students have a passion for Christ and desire to learn and seek God's will for their lives.



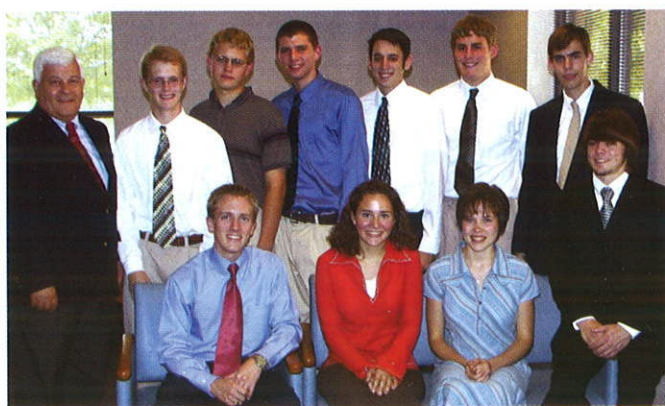


# Year in Review

## SEPTEMBER

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

At LeTourneau, we know our students also want to have fun, and we have many ways for them to do that all through the year, with several activities, like September's STOMP, where students can box with oversized boxing gloves, go rock climbing on a tower or race their friends wearing giant bungee cords. The YellowJacket Activities Council coordinates more than 30 events each semester that run throughout the year, all dedicated to making life at LeTourneau memorable.



### NATIONAL MERIT RECEPTION

This past year we welcomed the largest incoming class in LETU history, with 10 National Merit Scholarship finalists among the traditional-age freshman class. These students are the top one-half of one percent of high school students in America. The university hosted a reception for the students in September.

## OCTOBER



### APACHE HELICOPTER LANDS ON CAMPUS FOR CAREER DAY

All eyes were on the skies above LeTourneau in October when an Army Apache helicopter landed during our Career Day activities. The university annually invites companies from all over to come learn about our students. LeTourneau enjoys excellent job placement rates and our students gain acceptance into prestigious graduate programs, including two of our female biomedical engineering students who were accepted at Johns Hopkins and Northwestern to continue their studies.

LeTourneau aeronautical science students enjoyed getting an up-close look at the helicopter, but also won some high-flying marks themselves as they placed third at National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) Region IV flying competition in October. Besides their admirable finish, they were the only team to receive the competition's coveted Hazel Jones Safety Award. They qualified to compete in national competition in spring 2004 where they placed 10th and brought home the Red Baron Sportsmanship Award and were runners up for the Loening Trophy, the most prestigious award in collegiate aviation in only their second consecutive year of national competition. The national competition included precision landing events, cross-country planning and flight events, a preflight troubleshooting competition and others.







## COMPUTER SCIENCE TEAM WINS AWARDS

LETU computer science team won second place at a programming competition, beating teams from Rice University, University of Texas and Southern Methodist University. The win qualified the LETU team to travel to Prague, Czech Republic, to compete internationally in the Association for Computing Machinery competition, where they won honorable mention.

## ENGINEERING STUDENTS TAKE 2ND PLACE

LETU engineering students took second place at the national American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Student Design Competition in Washington, D.C., earning cash prizes for building a machine that used gravitational potential energy stored in water to lift long-grain rice up a 50-centimeter ramp. The event was LETU's fifth consecutive appearance at this national competition.

## \$7,500 DONATED TO LETU

L-3 Communications donated \$7,500 to the LeTourneau University engineering team working on the Phoenix Project, an autonomous flying machine competition.

## ALUMNI RECOGNIZED AT 2003 HOMECOMING

Homecoming 2003 was Oct. 24–25 and the university recognized Alumnus of the Year Dwayne King '65; Honorary Alumnus of the Year Dr. Alvin O. Austin; Gold Award recipient Erica Coldwell Horst '95; and Distinguished Service Award recipient Kent Wilson '66. A 40-year reunion celebration brought several alumni from throughout the years for luncheons, banquets and fellowship time together.

## NOVEMBER

## DECEMBER

## DOG TAG RETURN

In a moving ceremony held on the Longview campus in December, Vietnam veteran Denzil Messman was reunited with his dog tags, which had been missing for more than 35 years. American war veterans have always found LeTourneau University to be a place where their service is not forgotten.



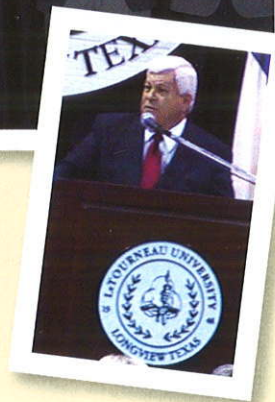
Former LeTourneau University trustee and Korean War veteran V.R. "Swede" Roskam and his wife, Martha, brought the weathered piece of metal to a thankful Messman, 53, who shed tears at their return. Messman was an 18-year-old radio operator whose helmet was shot off his head as he rappelled from a helicopter during a fierce firefight. Martha found a basket of dog tags

in a crowded marketplace in Ho Chi Minh City during a trip two years ago and bought them all. The Roskams since then have traveled the country returning dog tags to former soldiers and their families.



## COMMUNITY BANQUET

LeTourneau University has long been a partner with the Longview community. Our administrators, faculty and staff serve on community boards and many community members serve on our advisory boards. The university celebrated its place in the community during the annual community banquet Nov. 6 when Dr. Alvin O. Austin gave awards to local doctors for serving on our pre-med advisory committee. They are pictured from left: Dr. Jim Mauldin, Dr. Frank Jackson, Dr. Ken Marshall, Dr. Mark Wallis and LeTourneau University Dean of Arts and Sciences Dr. Amiel Jarstfer.





# Year in Review

## "DOG HOUSE" BUILDING RAZED

The university said goodbye to the last of the World War II buildings on campus, as the "dog house" was razed to make way for progress. The white-shingled "temporary" building from 1942 had served its purposes, having been used as a service club for officers and later as a Laundromat and business office. The only building on campus that remains from the old Harmon Army Hospital days is Speer Chapel, which is a historic landmark.



## LETU PROVIDES GIFTS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

LETU faculty and staff members joined together to help local families in the community by providing Christmas gifts for needy families with small children.



## JANUARY

## NEW YEAR, NEW DIRECTION IN SPORTS

Athletics programs were shifted under the leadership of Doug Wilcoxson, vice president of student affairs, who has prior experience with NCAA Division III athletics and NAIA athletics, both as a student-athlete and as a coach. A search for a new athletic director and several coaches resulted in some new hires.



## CANDY DROPS FROM THE SKY

It was every chocoholics dream come true Jan. 23 as candy fell from the sky during a creative reenactment of the 1948 Berlin airlift. LETU airplanes dropped bundles of chocolate candies to awaiting children on the Longview campus during the School of Education-sponsored Winter Reading Conference of the Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading (TAIR). The fun event highlighted visits from World War II veterans who shared their first hand experiences. The aerial reenactment was based on a Bluebonnet Award-nominated children's book, *Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot* by Margot Theis Raven.



## ENGINEERING PREVIEW WEEKEND

High school students interested in LeTourneau University's engineering programs came for Engineering Preview Weekend Jan. 29-30 and learned to build a catapult from Legos® and competed to see which design could fling a marshmallow farthest.



## FEBRUARY

### SPORTS HALL OF FAME BANQUET

The university celebrated the sports hall of fame Feb. 13 by inducting the entire 1996-97 and 1997-98 women's basketball national championship teams.



### "A FAIR OF THE HEART" HEALTH FAIR

Not forgetting our commitment to outreach into the community, LETU hosted with Good Shepherd Medical Center a day-long health fair in the Solheim Arena to give free blood tests and checkups to the public. Many elderly people attended and had their blood pressure checked.



worked in inner city ministries, performed beach evangelism and furthered evangelism efforts in Utah. Aeronautical science students traveled to Waxhaw, N.C., to help work alongside the aviation missionary group, JAARS. In Mexico, LeTourneau students helped spread God's word through working on church construction projects, performing street evangelism, hosting vacation Bible schools, ministering at drug rehabilitation centers and providing medical care.



At one mission trip to Solaridad, just north of Mexico City, over 400 low-income patients were seen in four afternoons by an American medical doctor. The doctor was Dr. Michael D. Austin, a Tyler pediatrician and the son of LeTourneau University President Dr. Alvin O. Austin, who accompanied the LETU students on the trip.

## MARCH



### SPRING BREAK

About 150 LeTourneau students participated in several missions trips in a variety of towns in Mexico, the United States and Honduras, serving God as they served others. Stateside, they





# Year in Review



## GLOBE-TEXAS SCHOLARS

About 1,200 Longview-area high school students converged on the LeTourneau University campus March 16–17 to be recognized for their academic achievements for studying a college-preparatory selection of course work throughout high school. GLOBE stands for the Greater Longview Organization for Business and Education which was founded in 1988 to promote excellence in education through partnering with families, schools, businesses and the community. The program was adopted statewide and renamed “Texas Scholars” in 1992. In September 2002 it began to spread nationwide as the State Scholars program, with support from U.S. President George W. Bush and Education Secretary Rod Paige.

## APRIL

## C.S. LEWIS CONFERENCE

LETU hosted the seventh annual C.S. Lewis and the Inklings Conference April 2, bringing to the campus noted scholars from all over the country to discuss the well-known Christian author best known for his series of books, *The Chronicles of Narnia*. The Inklings were a group of Christian men who read and critiqued unpublished compositions, including an early draft of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*.



## ROCKWELL COLLINS GIVES \$16,000 TO LETOURNEAU PHOENIX PROJECT

LeTourneau University engineering student John Connelly, second from left, was presented a \$16,000 check from aviation industry giant Rockwell Collins at their headquarters in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to support the LETU student design team, The Phoenix Project, in an autonomous flying vehicle competition to be held in July 2005. The competition is an aerial robotics competition sponsored by the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI). Others pictured include Rockwell Collins representatives, from left, Nick Bloom, principal engineering manager in commercial systems; Cindy Dietz, manager of community relations; and Tracy Sodman, senior engineering manager for commercial systems. Connelly, a recent LeTourneau graduate, has already been hired by Rockwell Collins.

## INVENTION AND DESIGN CONTEST

The university hosted its 18th annual Invention and Design Contest April 5–8, attracting more than 350 inventions from school children from second grade through adults, all competing for prize money in a variety of age categories. Grand prize winner was Rex Ray of Bonham, Texas, with a bicycle gear mechanism.







### ENGINEERING CONFERENCE—LETU STUDENTS TAKE TOP HONORS

For the first time ever, LETU hosted the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' regional student conference on the Longview campus. For the fifth time in six years, LETU mechanical engineering students took first place in the oral competition and best technical presentation category.

### PAINTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP COMES TO LETU

For the first time, LETU students played host to the South Central Collegiate Conference paintball championship at the Longview campus. About 50 college students from Texas Tech, Texas A&M, University of North Texas and Louisiana State University joined LETU students to fire off more than 100,000 rounds of paintballs around inflatable bunkers to decide the winner of the SCCC paintball championship in "Capture the Flag" style of systematic elimination. The competition required teamwork, strategy, sportsmanship, communication and sacrifice.



### TEACH

At the April board meeting, the trustees approved a new program to meet the needs of adults seeking to enter the teaching profession but lacking an accredited, undergraduate degree and teacher certification. The TEACH (Training Educators to Accept the Challenge) program would help meet the teacher shortage within the state of Texas, and assist individuals working in P-12 schools to meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind legislation. NCLB requires that paraprofessionals in the P-12 public schools must now have a minimum of two years of college, culminating in an associate degree or passage

of a college-level proficiency exit exam. The TEACH program will be offered through the School of Graduate and Professional Studies in partnership with the School of Education.



### SPRINGTIME IN THE AIR BRINGS GROUNDBREAKING NEWS

Due to continued growth, LETU broke ground on a new three-story, 160-bed residence hall on the northeast side of campus in the spring. The new, yet unnamed residence hall will cost an estimated \$7 million and will be located east of Thomas Hall where the old Student Services building was located. The new facility is expected to be ready for use by fall 2005.



### FACILITIES SERVICES BUILDING DEDICATION

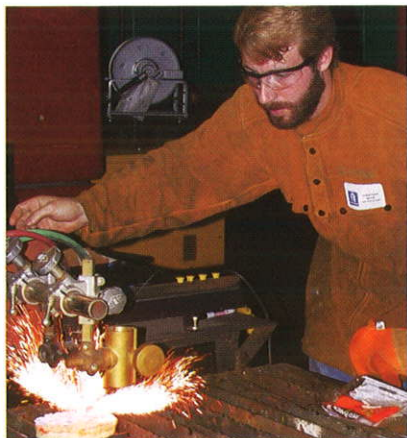
The new 24,000-square-foot Facilities Services Building opened on the southeast corner of campus. The building houses the university's warehouse and central receiving area, as well as carpentry, custodial services, grounds crew, maintenance, plumbing and automotive maintenance departments. A conference room was named the Earl Martin room, in memory of the former director of auxiliary services.



# Year in Review

## WELDING TAKES ON NEW NAME

To better reflect new technologies and the joining of polymers, ceramics and composites, rather than primarily metals, LETU renamed its "welding" degree concentration "materials joining." The name change signifies a deliberate move toward preparing students for the innovative opportunities with new materials used in nanotechnology, biomedical and electronic materials. The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) also reaccredited the programs for the maximum period allowed.



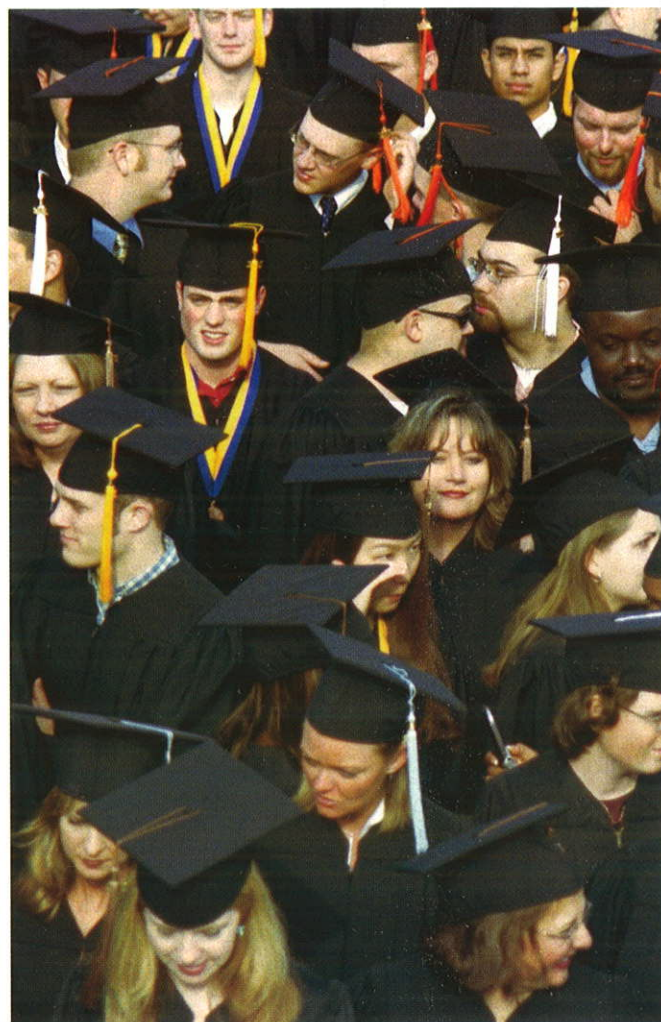
## RECOGNITION

LeTourneau's Postbaccalaureate Accelerated Certification for Teachers (PACT) program won recognition as a distinguished program from the Association of Continuing Higher Education Region VII, which includes 10 southern states. The PACT program started in August 2001 with 38 students and grew to nearly 600 in less than two years at a time when Texas is facing its worst teacher shortage in history. Glenda Johnson accepted the award



## SENIOR DESIGN TEAMS TAKE 1ST, 2ND

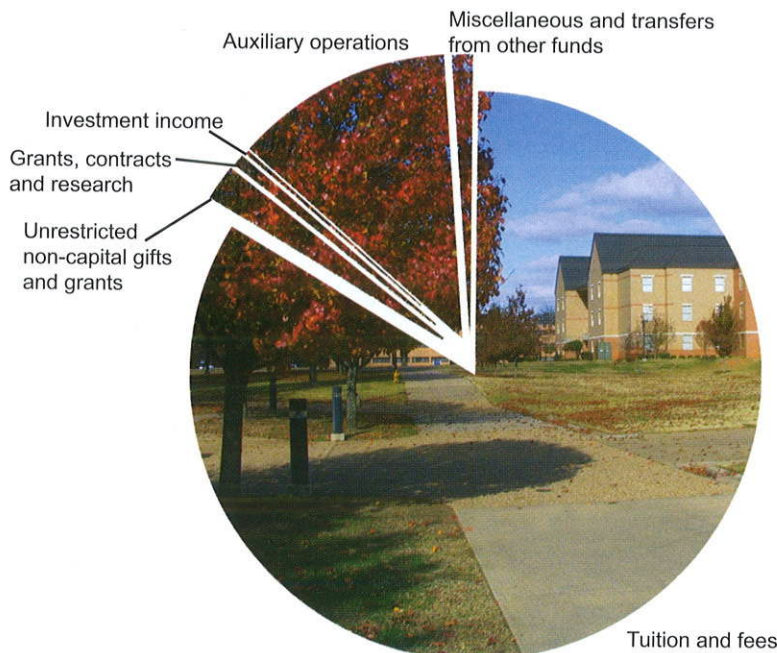
The LETU human-powered vehicle teams took first place overall in the utility competition, second place in the multi-rider competition as well as first place finishes in the multi-rider sprint, multi-rider endurance and utility design events.



## COMMENCEMENT

LETU hosted the largest commencement exercises in the university's 58-year history with more than 400 graduates receiving diplomas in the Longview ceremony and another 268 in a Houston ceremony.



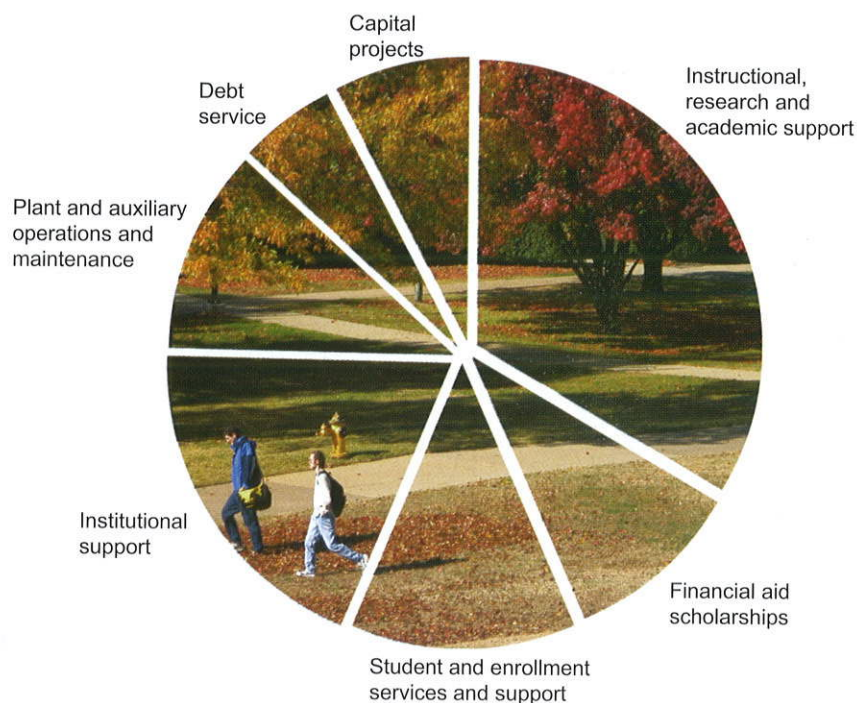


## Revenue

Tuition and fees	83.6%	\$35,695,820
Unrestricted non-capital gifts and grants	2.0%	\$856,919
Grants, contracts and research	0.7%	\$277,680
Investment income	0.2%	\$88,735
Auxiliary operations	12.3%	\$5,267,634
Miscellaneous and transfers from other funds	1.2%	\$512,015
<b>Total revenue and transfers in</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$42,698,803</b>

## Expenditures

Instructional, research and academic support	33.4%	\$14,252,354
Financial aid scholarships	10.0%	\$4,286,586
Student and enrollment services and support	12.8%	\$5,472,931
Institutional support	19.0%	\$8,125,507
Plant and auxiliary operations and maintenance	11.6%	\$4,937,149
Debt service	5.5%	\$2,328,332
Capital Projects	7.7%	\$3,295,944
<b>Total expenditures and transfers out</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$42,698,803</b>



## Gift Income All Funds

Total Gifts .....	\$5,077,563.97
Alumni .....	\$259,486.57
Trustees.....	\$2,729,595.93
Corporations.....	\$538,522.20
Foundations.....	\$297,405.25
Friends .....	\$1,132,334.73
Others.....	\$120,219.29